

Prayer Calendar Western Europe August/September 2020



Devotional

ACTS 2:42

What does the church of the Lord Jesus Christ look like? We have been focused these days on 'doing' church online. Perhaps your church has plans to meet again soon or maybe in your area, city or country some are already back to the new 'normal' of meeting with social-distancing restrictions in place. Last time, in this prayer calendar, we looked at Peter's three-part sermon on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-41). Luke records that the congregation on that day were cut to the heart and, many repented and believed in the Lord Jesus for the forgiveness of sins and received the Holy Spirit. There were added to the church that day about three thousand souls. But what would this new church look like. 4 things are apparent, neatly packaged in Acts 2:42, *"And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."*

The apostles' teaching

The Lord's church must pay careful attention to the Lord. To do that he has left us the entire biblical record. Are you a Christian worker who listens to what Christ has said to us in his word? This is the most important thing in the life of the church and something we too must commit to. Whether that is in leading our countries, as a local worker, office staff or any other role in serving the Lord of the church, "we must be serious about sitting under careful, clear and passionate, Christ-centred, Spirit-empowered teaching."¹

God does his work this way, by his Spirit, through his word - we can't shortcut it or circumnavigate it personally when we come to ministering to others. Are you committed to the Apostles' teaching?

Fellowship

Being together in person hasn't been easy these days but it is to be something we commit to. In church and in mission back then it was to be together, sharing with and caring for one another. We are Child Evangelism *'Fellowship'*. How is this reflected in our everyday lives and ministries? Am I, are you committed to fellowship with others in your church, and in your ministry, for the benefit of the building of the church of Jesus Christ?

The breaking of bread

Something I have missed greatly is time together with believers, thinking of Christ and all he has done for us, around the Lord's table. I look forward to being able to 'break bread' again soon with brothers and sisters in Christ. Don't miss out on the blessing of this, in your Christian disciplines, when opportunity arises again.

The prayers

Probably, the reference here is to set prayers and more informal prayers too, praying in response to the word that was preached. Prayer is difficult if we don't use any of what the Lord has given us in his word to pray. I find my mind wanders so easily if I have to come up with a prayer from my thoughts and mind. As we hear the Lord's teaching, live together in fellowship, remember the Lord together, it gives us so much to praise God for and to pray to him for, in our lives, our church and mission. May God help us to pray in these months of August and September in response to his word and in fellowship with our CEF brother and sisters.

This is what the church looks like - do you reflect that?

¹Acts - a visual guide Kevin DeYoung & Chris Ranson

August 2020

1. Gerd-Walter Buskies, European Director:

Please pray for our dear co-workers and volunteers in Eastern Europe who are affected by Covid-19. Especial in Central Asia a number of our workers have been in hospital. Pray that they will fully recover and that the Lord keeps us all in his hands.

2. Germany:

The German CMLC is supposed to start at Sept. 26. Please pray that some more students will apply, also from Switzerland and Austria and that those of God's choice will come into the ministry right after the training.

3. Latvia:

There will be a children's Camp in the western part of Latvia from today until the 7th. Pray for workers - that there will be good teamwork and unity among the staff, and that children might be saved.

4. France:

Please do pray for the Instructor Of Teachers level 1 and 2 course which are being held from August 1st to 15th in the South of France. Pray that those attending will learn and benefit much from the teaching.

5. Ireland:

We have a number of online camps being conducted this month. Please pray that children and young people will log on and enjoy this new camp experience.

6. Austria:

As you know there is currently no CEF ministry in Austria - please pray for the Lord's leading regarding the future.

7. European Partnership Ministry:

We are so thankful to God for His provision to continue ministry over the past months. Even though there have been challenges, God has given opportunities for evangelism and His people have given for the ministry to continue.

8. Lithuania:

Praise the Lord for four day camps (non- residential) in the Kaunas and Klaipėda regions. Thank the Lord for volunteers and more than one hundred children who heard the Word of God. May His Spirit continue working in these children to bear fruit in their lives.

9. Sweden:

In a survey about what children think of corona, Uppsala University found that 8/10 children are worried. Pray that we can give them hope in Christ during this crisis.

10. Switzerland:

Praise the Lord for the new members HE has brought into CEF Switzerland in July.

11. Norwegian Lapland:

Pray that Sarah will be able to come at the end of August and that God will keep her safe and well as she travels. Pray too that God will help Sarah as she learns Norwegian.

12. Latvia:

Praise the Lord for the Camps for kids and teens and also the open air activities that took place in July. The children heard the Gospel, and some responded to it.

13. Italy:

Please pray for important decisions to be made by the National Board regarding the appointment of a National Director. Pray that God will give guidance as we consider how to proceed.

14. Estonia:

Pray that churches will be encouraged when seeing new curriculum items.

15. Great Britain

Praise God for recent new enquirers who wish to volunteer with or join CEF Britain. Pray that God will enable those enquiring to join the ministry to receive training to help them prepare to teach the Bible to boys and girls. Pray for the preparation in the coming weeks of an online foundation course to prepare recent enquirers and volunteers to be ready for gospel ministry.

16. IT:

Pray for wisdom and guidance for the team as we look at strategies and guidelines for using the internet safely for children. Pray too that we can make contacts in these areas of expertise in which we can get advice from.

17. Bogdan Bassara: International Literature Director

Thank the Lord for 21 years of Boxes of Books ministry. Pray for the National Director who usually in August decides and fills out the annual Equipping order form for the following year of the ministry. Pray that they will decide well, and that again the literature will be possible to be delivered.

18. Switzerland:

Pray for the promotional pack which is being distributed very soon - pray it would be greatly used of God to call prayer/ financial supporters, volunteers and part-time/ full time workers into the ministry.

19. Belgium:

This summer, Peter and I, along with our friend, Elitah, will drive to Antwerp. There, we'll be part of the team in another 3 day outreach to the children in the huge social housing apartments. Please pray for the 3 days of outreach, from the 19th to 21st: for contact with the parents, and for children to trust Christ!

20. Germany:

Please, pray that many children will start to take part in the Mailbox Club of CEF in Germany and will keep at it.

21. Finland:

Please pray for our workers' and volunteers' meeting on August 21-22. This year has been exceptional and there are changes coming in the future - we need to plan together which way to go from here. We would also like to get to know each other better as we cannot meet very often.

22. Stephen & Pam Garrett: Area Directors SW Europe

We praise God for newly appointed assistants to work alongside us. This will be a tremendous encouragement and blessing as they help us share in the ministry of SW Europe.

23. Iceland:

Pray for God to call people to commence a more broadly developed ministry in Iceland - pray for more contacts to be made so we can meet online or whenever it becomes possible to travel.

24. Sweden:

Pray that children in Sweden will find our websites; wundersurf.se and bibelresan.se (bcc-course)

25. France:

Pray for the camps held in July and August. May they be special appointments with God for each child and youth who participate.

26. Stephen & Grace Chambers: Area Directors, NW Europe:

Pray for the Boards, National Directors, Workers, Staff, and Volunteers of NW Europe in their ongoing ministry. Also please pray for the Lord to send out the workers he knows we need for the development of the ministry.

27. Norwegian Lapland:

We will be doing preparation for GNC's, JYC's and Missions starting at the beginning of September. Please pray for wisdom.

28. Wondersurf:

Wondersurf is in progress into 9 other languages: Turkish, Spanish, Arabic, Dutch, Tajik, Kyrgyz, Mongolian, Ukrainian, Albanian. We hope that all 9 languages can go online in autumn at the latest. Pray for the teams, for wisdom and good progress, as well as good functioning technology.

29. Ireland:

The rebuilding of our camp centre is continuing and we are very thankful for the finance which is coming in. Please pray that God will continue to meet this financial need, and that He will protect the workmen onsite.

30. Gerd-Walter Buskies, European Director:

Please pray for my preaching in Villingen/Germany. Because of Corona a previous date had been cancelled and moved to this Sunday. Pray that the Lord makes me a blessing to all who are there.

31. Luke 10:2

Key for reaching more children with the gospel are our volunteers. Please pray that the Lord will increase the number of our precious volunteers to 17,500 (+ 4,000).

September 2020**1. European Partnership Ministry:**

Pray for our ministry partners who are struggling financially at this time. May God show them His way and give His peace during this time.

2. Great Britain:

Pray for the National Committee as they meet online today and the 9th to review and support the ministry of CEF throughout Britain during this challenging pandemic. Pray that they will know much wisdom and unity in their discussion and that God will direct their thoughts and plans.

3. Switzerland:

Praise the Lord for what HE has done so far: a website and webshop have been developed, and literature orders have been received regularly. Do please pray for workers for direct ministry to children. Pray for Swiss people to attend the CMLC in Germany this fall.

4. Luxembourg:

Peter and Didi Hegnauer hope to be active again in the Fall if the Corona situation will allow for teacher training in a normal way.

5. Ireland:

Many of our workers will be taking a break this month. Please pray that they will be physically and spiritually refreshed.

6. Gerd-Walter Buskies, European Director:

Today I'm preaching in my home church in Nümbrecht (Germany) in the morning and in the afternoon I preach again at a farewell meeting for the CEF local director in Cologne who will retire.

7. Norwegian Lapland:

Our GNC's will begin DV today in Billefjord, tomorrow in Lakslev, and on the 9th in Borselv. Please pray we will get more help with these Clubs. Katrine, our GNC teacher will have an operation in September. Pray that the operation will go well and that she will make a good recovery. She has had 12 weeks of chemotherapy already.

France:

The French-speaking training committee will meet today at the AEE France national office. The publication committee will meet tomorrow, may the Lord guide in all the decisions to be made.

8. Netherlands:

Please pray for the translation of the Wondersurf website, so that we in the Netherlands will soon be able to have an online ministry going for our children.

9. Latvia:

Pray for Christian teachers in schools. Please pray that the message of Jesus will not be silenced. As of September, there will be no more Christian teaching in the first grade, but there are opportunities to teach about Christianity on an optional basis.

10. Germany:

May the Lord open more doors for Good News Clubs, party clubs and Five Day clubs, this autumn.

11. Finland:

There are two literature projects that have been dragging on for a long time, but finally there is light at the end of the tunnel. Please pray that we could finish these items and they could be really helpful to teachers and a blessing to children in Finland.

12. Estonia:

Pray for Jekaterina, our new co-worker, that she will have her prayer and support team soon.

13. Gerd-Walter Buskies, European Director:

This morning I preach in a small local church in Seengen/Switzerland. May the Lord give grace and speak to the hearts through His Word.

14. Norwegian Lapland:

We will be having a Children's Mission from today until the 19th September in a little village called Mehamn.

There are fewer children here now as a number of families have moved away. Pray that children will be allowed to come.

15. IT:

We are so thankful for those who God has sent our way to help us with more specialised areas of web design and development. Pray that God would bless and use these people for His glory!

16. Ireland:

Due to the pandemic, we will not be able to hold our workers staff conference in the usual format. Pray that we will be able to meet in an alternative fashion and that we can encourage one another.

17. Gerd-Walter Buskies, European Director:

I'm supposed to fly to Russia today for a week of meetings with our dear leaders and co-workers there. But it may not be possible because of the coronavirus. Please pray for our co-workers in Russia that they find ways to reach the children during this difficult period of time and stay themselves healthy.

18. Lithuania:

Pray for the plans to make a good use of multimedia in reaching more children as the new school year begins.

19. Finland:

There is a nation-wide 3-hour webinar today instead of the children's ministry conference that was planned for the whole weekend. Please pray that many children's workers would attend now that it is free and available online. One of the four speakers is Pekka Siitonen. Pray for him that his message would be clear, encouraging and interesting.

20. Estonia:

Pray for God to bless and encourage at our Junior Youth Challenge training, and for the right students to enrol and benefit from the course.

21. Stephen & Pam Garrett: Area Directors, SW Europe:

Please do pray for new National Directors of God's choice for Great Britain, Belgium, Italy and Portugal.

22. Stephen & Grace Chambers: Area Directors NW Europe

Please pray for godly wisdom in all we do - as we get to know the National directors and their ministry needs. Pray the Lord will equip us as we learn more and more of what is involved in fulfilling our role.

23. Great Britain:

Pray for the Zoom online meeting this afternoon with the Workers, that it would be a helpful time of sharing and encouragement as we review the ways we can continue to strengthen and develop our ministry to boys and girls through creative ways online.

24. Switzerland:

Praise the Lord for friends, prayer partners and for those who give financially. May they be richly blessed in return. Pray for continuity in praying and giving - may the Lord use His people and provide for everything.

25. Lithuania:

Pray for autumn teacher training classes in 4 regions: for children's workers to be enthusiastic in their ministry, and also for more new children workers getting to know and use CEF material.

26. Sweden:

Pray for God to help and bless in the first module in our TCE1 course today.

27. European Partnership Ministry:

A number of CEF workers started their ministry this year and haven't had opportunity to share about their ministry in churches or with other individuals. Pray that God will provide for their support so that ministry may continue.

28. Latvia:

Pray for knowledgeable people to help or join us in our internet ministry, and pray that we will find creative ways to reach children through this ministry.

29. Gerd-Walter Buskies, European Director:

Today we plan to have a Zoom meeting with all country and department leaders in Europe. Please pray that this will be a beneficial time for all and that the technology will work fine.

Bogdan Bassara: International Literature Director

Please pray for the Multimedia Advisory Group online meetings that start tomorrow. Pray that the decisions made will have influence on the growth of the ministry and that the projects will be really used to reach and teach children in Europe. Pray for Bogdan as he chairs the meetings.

30. Christmas Together:

For the second time we plan to do Christmas Together across our European region. Please pray for the teams that start preparations and for an increased interest of churches to reach the children with the Christmas message.